

# Preventing Pollution: It's Up to Us

In the Santa Clara Valley, storm drains transport water directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay without treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or baylands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; construction debris; sediment created by erosion; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

Thirteen valley municipalities have joined together with Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to educate local residents and businesses and fight stormwater pollution. Join us, by following the practices described in this pamphlet.



## Storm Drain Pollution from Paints, Solvents, and Adhesives

All paints, solvents, and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to wildlife in local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean. Toxic chemicals may come from liquid or solid products or from cleaning residues or rags. Paint material and wastes, adhesives and cleaning fluids should be recycled when possible, or disposed of properly to prevent these materials from flowing into storm drains and watercourses.

### Doing the Job Right *Handling Paint Products*

- ☐ **Keep all liquid paint products and wastes away from the gutter, street, and storm drains.** Liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids are hazardous wastes and must be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection facility (contact your local stormwater program listed on the back of this brochure).
- ☐ When thoroughly dry, empty paint cans, used brushes, rags, and drop cloths may be disposed of as garbage in a sanitary landfill. Empty, dry paint cans also may be recycled as metal.
- ☐ Wash water from painted buildings constructed before 1978 can contain high amounts of lead, even if paint chips are not present. Before you begin stripping paint or cleaning pre-1978 building exteriors with water under high pressure, test paint for lead by taking paint scrapings to a local laboratory. See Yellow Pages for a state-certified laboratory.
- ☐ If there is loose paint on the building, or if the paint tests positive for lead, block storm drains. Check with the wastewater treatment plant to determine whether you may discharge water to the sanitary sewer, or if you must send it offsite for disposal as hazardous waste.

### *Painting Cleanup*

- ☐ **Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, French drain, or stream.**
- ☐ For **water-based paints**, paint out brushes to the extent possible, and rinse into a drain that goes to the sanitary sewer. Never pour paint down a storm drain.
- ☐ For **oil-based paints**, paint out brushes to the extent possible and clean with thinner or solvent in a proper container. Filter and reuse thinners and solvents. Dispose of excess liquids and residue as hazardous waste.

### *Paint Removal*

- ☐ **Paint chips and dust from non-hazardous dry stripping and sand blasting** may be swept up or collected in plastic drop cloths and disposed of as trash.
- ☐ **Chemical paint stripping residue** and chips and dust from **marine paints or paints containing lead, mercury or tributyl tin** must be disposed of as hazardous wastes. Lead based paint removal requires a state-certified contractor.
- ☐ When stripping or cleaning **building exteriors** with high-pressure water, block storm drains. Direct wash water onto a dirt area and spade into soil. Or, check with the local wastewater treatment authority to find out if you can collect (mop or vacuum) building cleaning water and dispose to the sanitary sewer. Sampling of the water may be required to assist the wastewater treatment authority in making its decision.

### *Recycle/Reuse Leftover Paints Whenever Possible.*

- ☐ Recycle or donate excess **water-based (latex) paint**, or return to supplier.
- ☐ Reuse leftover **oil-based paint**. Dispose of non-recyclable thinners, sludge and unwanted paint, as hazardous waste.
- ☐ Unopened cans of paint may be able to be returned to the paint vendor. Check with the vendor regarding its "buy-back" policy.

## Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Businesses that generate less than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are eligible to use Santa Clara County's Small Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program. Call (408) 299-7300 for a quote, more information or guidance on disposal.

Palo Alto operates a similar program, with monthly collection, for small businesses. Call the City of Palo Alto, (650) 496-6980, or Greenfield Services Corporation, 1-800-433-5060 for information or to schedule an appointment.

This brochure is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain pollution prevention measures for specific types of construction industry activities. Other pamphlets include:

### ***General Construction and Site Supervision***

### ***Landscaping, Gardening, and Pool Maintenance***

### ***Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application***

### ***Roadwork and Paving***

### ***Earth Moving Activities and Dewatering Activities***

### ***Heavy Equipment Operation***

### ***Home Repair and Remodeling***

For additional brochures, call **1-800-794-2482**



**Santa Clara Valley  
Urban Runoff  
Pollution Prevention Program**

## Spill Response Agencies:

1. In the City of Santa Clara, call (408) 984-3080.
2. In the City of Palo Alto, call (650) 329-2413.
3. In the City of San Jose, dial 9-1-1 if hazardous materials enter the storm drain system. For non-hazardous spills, call (408) 945-3000.
4. In other cities, **DIAL 9-1-1**
5. State Office of Emergency Services Warning Center (24 hours). . . . . **1-800-852-7550**
6. Santa Clara County Environmental Health Services. . . . . (408) 299-6930

## Local Pollution Control Agencies

County of Santa Clara  
Pollution Prevention Program. . . (408) 441-1195

County of Santa Clara Integrated Waste Management Program. . . . . (408) 441-1198

County of Santa Clara District Attorney  
Environmental Crimes Hotline. . . (408) 299-TIPS

Santa Clara County  
Recycling Hotline. . . . . 1-800-533-8414

Santa Clara Valley Water  
District. . . . . (408) 265-2600

Santa Clara Valley Water  
District Pollution Hotline. . . . . 1-888-510-5151

San Jose/Santa Clara Water  
Pollution Control Plant. . . . . (408) 945-3000  
*Serving Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos,  
Milpitas, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa  
Clara, Saratoga*

Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant  
*Serving Sunnyvale. . . . . (408) 730-7270*

Regional Water Quality  
Control Plant. . . . . (650) 329-2598  
*Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los  
Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo  
Alto, Stanford*

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Bay Region. . . . . (510) 622-2300

# Painting and Application of Solvents and Adhesives

*Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry*



## Who should use this brochure?

- Homeowners
- Painters
- Paperhangers
- Plasterers
- Graphic artists
- Dry wall crews
- Floor covering installers
- General contractors
- Home builders
- Developers